Compensation to Families of Deceased IL-38 Plane Crash Victims

786. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the families of the victims of defence personnel who died in an IL-38 Naval plane crash over Goa have made a representation to the Government to declare the deaths 'Under active duty';

(b) whether Government had earlier declared such deaths as in harness; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider the representation of the deceased's kith and kin and offer them adequate compensation and privileges admissible under 'Active duty' category?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No such representation has been received by the Naval Headquarters.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the relevant regulations, the casualties of IL-38 crews would be treated as death due to accidents in the performance of duties and due compensation would be awarded to the next of kin of the deceased.

Icrease in MiG crashes

787. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of MiG 21 crashes have been increasing during the current year in comparison to the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether two MiG 21 crashes have taken place in the month of September, 2002, after getting clearance to fly;

(d) if so, the reasons of such crashes; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to retire MiG 21 and bring confidence about safety of the planes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Compared to last five years' data of MIG-21 aircraft